

SAC, Washington Field

March 4, 1957

Director, FBI (100-403320)

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

On February 26, 1957, D. M. Ladd, former Assistant to the Director, furnished the Bureau with one copy each of two issues of the "Washington Newsletter" of captioned organization, Post Office Box 8815, Washington 3, D. C., which had been forwarded to Mr. Loyd Wright of the Commission on Government Security. Two Photostats each of these newsletters are enclosed.

Bureau files reflect that captioned organization is a California corporation whose headquarters address is Post Office Box 1925, Main Post Office, Los Angeles 53, California. It has various area councils located in San Francisco and Long Beach, California; Chicago, Illinois; and New York, New York.

It is described as an organization to encourage medical and social research pertaining to socio-sexual behavior and to publish and develop such research; to sponsor educational programs to aid social and emotional variants and to promote among the general public an understanding of the problems of such persons; and to help develop social and moral responsibility in those persons whose behavior may vary from accepted present-day standards. The preamble to the constitution of captioned organization, which constitution is dated May 24, 1953, states in part that the members of the organization "hold it necessary that a highly ethical homosexual culture be integrated into society."

You are instructed to conduct an inquiry concerning captioned organization to determine the individuals who are operating the Washington chapter and if possible identify individual members of this chapter. It is possible that the individuals operating the chapter and the individual members of the chapter are employed by the United States Government and their activities in this regard may have some bearing on the Security of Government Employees Program.

Enclosures (4)

1 - Los Angeles (100-45888) (Information)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/2/84 BY SP4ew/du

100-45888-109

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 5 1957	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

WRO

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b7c

W.C. Washington Field  
Re: The Mattachine Society, Inc.  
100-403320

A list of these individuals should be forwarded under the caption of instant communication and the indices of your office should be checked to determine whether an inquiry of these individuals has been conducted under the afore-mentioned program. In the event it is determined any individuals have been investigated under the afore-mentioned program you should direct a communication to the Bureau under each specific individual case caption.

Your inquiry should also be designed to determine whether the Washington chapter is an affiliate of the organization whose headquarters are in Los Angeles. Limit inquiry to contacts with established sources.

Expedite.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Washington Field

DATE: March 4, 1957

FROM : Director, FBI (100-403320)

SUBJECT: THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

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1 - Los Angeles (100-45888) - (Information)

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 5 1957	
FBI - WASHINGTON	

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b7Cb6  
b7C

*Copy furnished  
to Bureau, Division  
of Internal Security  
by 4/2/57  
9/2/57  
JL*

CSE

*ice of  
2nd. 3/11/57  
JL*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/2/84 BY

SAC, Washington Field  
Re: The Mattachine Society, Inc.  
100-403320

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Your inquiry should also be designed to determine whether the Washington chapter is an affiliate of the organization whose headquarters are in Los Angeles. Limit inquiry to contacts with established sources.

Expedite.

# WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, Inc.

Washington Chapter  
P. O. Box 8815  
Washington 3,  
D. C.

VOL. II, No. 1

January, 1957.

## THE IDAHO TRIALS ....

On the last page of this Newsletter is given the results of the trials of the 16 defendants of Boise and neighboring towns who were arrested and charged with "infamous crimes against nature," beginning in October, 1955. A seventeenth person, Elmer H. Parker, 49, of Parma, is not listed, as the disposition of his case is unknown. All of these trials were held in Idaho State District Court at Boise before either Judge M. Oliver Koelsch or Merlin S. Young. (Those whose names appear in capital letters appeared before Judge Koelsch, the others before Judge Young.) All sentences are indeterminate sentences under the Idaho indeterminate sentence law; that is, the prisoners may or may not be released before the number of years stated, depending upon the decision of the State Board of Corrections. Those placed on probation will be closely supervised and if they engage in homosexual acts or fail to comply with the strict terms of their probation, they will be immediately returned to court and sentenced. Some of our readers will recognize one of the defendants as a former Washington resident.

Sodomy in Idaho draws a minimum sentence of five years and includes acts per os as well as per anum. In addition, there is a "lewd conduct with minor or child under sixteen" law, which provides for a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Contrary to the article in the Time magazine on Dec. 12, 1955, not all the defendants had engaged in acts with minors.

The prosecuting attorney in all these trials (except for the last part of the Larsen trial, when Eugene Thomas was the State's attorney) was Blaine F. Evans, 33, who quit in this capacity after his election in November 1956 on the Republican ticket to the State Senate. The Idaho Daily Statesman newspaper on Jan. 11 described Evans as being now "interested in modernization of the state's criminal code."

The trials have received wide publicity in the Boise papers from the beginning and resulted in a wave of hysteria in Idaho, which seems to have swept over into nearby States, especially Utah and Montana. During this period of more than 27 months there was a "Mass Meet on Morals," the Boise police chief was fired, a Governor's Conference on Young People's Development was had, the Boise Mayor and City Council set up a "special juvenile and morals department," the Boise Ministerial Association passed a resolution praising local law enforcement officers for their "valiant efforts" against homosexuals, a YMCA "youth legislature" passed a bill recommending sex education in Idaho schools, a State mental health director was appointed, creation by the State of a central crime laboratory and identification bureau was recommended, Boise's outlaws laws for children and minors under 18 were tightened, a mental health survey attended by representatives from Idaho and 10 other western States and Alaska was held in Salt Lake City; and in addition there were recommendations for a State license law for private detectives and revision of the Idaho Youth Rehabilitation Act, with strengthened juvenile code and a parental responsibility law.



Continuances were granted in a number of the trials, so that several months elapsed before their conclusion. Martin, the only defendant who was acquitted, was represented by Raymond L. Givens, former Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court, and his partner, Raymond D. Givens. An all-male jury listened to testimony from 14 character witnesses -- clergymen, businessmen, fellow-lawyers, etc. -- who testified in Martin's behalf. Martin himself did not take the stand. The defendant Moore had several character witnesses, but not as many as Martin. Charles Pruett testified that he had his first homosexual experience at the age of 7. Judge Koelsch told Alma Fernsworth that he would have been better off had he committed theft, and he told Thomas Dillon that he had committed a "nasty crime." Of course, to some people all sex is nasty, lewd and indecent. So wrote a Canadian lawyer several months ago while complaining bitterly about Canada's new "gross indecency" law, which applies not only to homosexual acts but also to heterosexual acts between men and women. "I do not know," he said, "what an act of gross indecency between a man and woman is, but, whatever it may be, it is now an offence. Nothing ... requires that the act take place in public and thus what two lovers -- or man and wife -- may do in the privacy of their own apartment may turn out to be an offence. To some narrow minds all acts of sex are grossly indecent. And what a potent weapon of blackmail is thus provided for a woman who is loved, possibly too vigorously, and later scorned!" (Canadian Bar Review, Jan. 1955, pp. 70-1.)

Many, many of the so-called "crimes against nature" have been committed, but only a very few have gone to trial or ever been exposed. The monasteries of the Middle Ages were no exception. (See James Harvey Robinson, Readings in European History, Vol. 1, p. 378). And in 1474, a male domestic fowl was criminally tried for the "unnatural crime of laying an egg," and sentenced -- along with the egg -- to be burned at the stake. (E. P. Evans, The Criminal Prosecution and Punishment of Animals, p. 162.)

So while the Idaho unfortunates are behind bars or serving long probation terms or reclining on the psychiatric couch, it behooves the rest of us -- including law-makers and judges -- to look to Sweden, Italy, Mexico, Denmark and other countries where homosexual acts are not a crime.

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#### "HOLLYWOOD CONFIDENTIAL" IS IN ERROR

A recent issue of the Los Angeles Mattachine Newsletter quoted "Hollywood Confidential" to the effect that a University of Pennsylvania endocrinologist, Dr. Alfred M. Bongiovanni, had found a cure for homosexuality. Inquiry of the good Doctor as to the truth of this brought forth the prompt reply that the statement in "Hollywood Confidential" was utterly false and "misrepresented for purposes of sensationalism."

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"Certainly nothing is unnatural that is not physically impossible."

-- Sheridan, The Critic.

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# RESULTS OF THE IDAHO TRIAL

Name	Residence	Age	Profession	Plea	Sentence
CHARLES PRUETT	Boise	24	Hospital attendant	Guilty	5 yrs., State pen.
THOS. S. DILLON	Parna	34	Janitor	Guilty	3 yrs. probation
JOE MOORE *	Boise	54	Bank vice-president	Guilty	7 yrs., State pen.
Paris T. Martin	Boise	44	Attorney	Not Guilty	None -- Acquitted
JOHN C. BARTLETT	Caldwell	28	High school teacher	Guilty	6 yrs. probation
VERNON H. CASSELL	Caldwell	51	Clothing store clerk	Guilty	10 yrs., State pen.
Melvin Dir	Boise	29	Insurance salesman & theatrical worker	Not Guilty -- later changed to Guilty	6 mos., county jail, to be followed by court-ordered psychiatric treatment & 5 yrs. probation
CHARLES R. BROKAW	Boise	29	Freight line dock worker	Guilty	5 yrs., Statepen., commuted to 6 mos., county jail
JOSEPH R. GOUGH	Boise	33	Store buyer	Not Guilty -- later changed to Guilty	5 yrs. probation
Willard W. Wilson %	Boise	39	Liquor salesman	Guilty	5 yrs., State pen
ALMA R. FARNSWORTH	Boise	31	Salesman	--	5-1/2 yrs. probation
Chas. Gordon &	Boise	40	Interior decorator	Guilty	15 yrs., State pen.
Ralph Cooper	Boise	33	Shoe Store employee	---	Life imprisonment, State pen.
REGINALD SHAFFER &	Boise	39	--	Guilty	15 yrs., State pen.
James W. Seles	Boise	33	Pianist	Not Guilty -- later changed to Guilty	5 yrs. probation & to take psychiatric treatment under direction of State Bd. of Corrections
GORDON R. LARSEN #	Boise	31	Salesman	Declined to enter plea - Judge entered plea of Not Guilty	5 yrs., State pen.

\* Appealed to Idaho Supreme Court on the severity of the sentence, for probation & a rehearing, all of which were denied.

% Appealed to Idaho Supreme Court on several grounds. Decision unknown.

& Has served previous sentence for similar offense.

# Appeal to Idaho Supreme Court on 1/11/57 for probation pending.

## WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER, Inc.

P. O. Box 3815  
Washington 3, D. C.

Vol. 1, No. 6

December 16, 1956

### GOVERNMENT NOT TO APPEAL GUARRO CASE

At the close of the last Guarro trial on September 28, 1956 (referred to in our October Newsletter), the United States Attorney filed a motion on behalf of the Government that the mandate of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the D. C. Circuit (a unanimous decision in Guarro's favor) be stayed until the Solicitor General of the United States could decide within the allotted time whether to seek an appeal to the United States Supreme Court. On Dec. 13, it was disclosed that the Solicitor General had decided not to ask for a review by our highest court. Thus, the law of sexual assault is now apparently settled in the District of Columbia. Consent is usually a good defense, and there may be consent by words or actions. It was a sensible decision which the 3-judge court rendered -- and a brilliant opinion, written by the Honorable George T. Washington, a collateral descendant of our first president. Any improvement must be found in the American Law Institute's Model Penal Code, Tentative Draft No. 4 of 1955 (Sec. 207.6 - Sexual Assault), which will be eventually submitted to the various legislatures throughout the country, when completed, and recommended for adoption.

As a result of the Guarro case, Municipal Court judges are now dismissing similar cases where there is apparent consent on the part of the plainclothesman -- as in the Army lieutenant case on Nov. 26. Also, the Goodman and some other pending cases have been reversed and their convictions set aside as a result of the Guarro test case.

The testimony in the Guarro case on March 10, 1955, in Municipal Court, makes interesting reading on a long winter's evening. The notorious plainclothesman, Louis A. Fochett, frankly told Guarro's lawyer that he was not shocked, embarrassed or humiliated at the defendant's touching; that he must make a certain number of arrests each week to hold his job; and that his usual hours of duty were from 7:00 PM to 3:00 AM. Despite his long experience, he was a very poor witness on behalf of his employer, the government. At the close of the trial, after Guarro's lawyer had summarized his case and asked for its dismissal, Municipal Court Judge Snelley said: "Thank you. The court will find the defendant guilty. Do you wish to have him sentenced at this time?" Whereupon, an appeal was entered.

### MURDER IN THE NEWS

The tragic death of a 33-year-old student, Pierre Le Febvre, at the hands of a 19-year-old Marine, reported in the papers on Nov. 30, reminds us of, and points up, the dire need of educating the heterosexual public that homosexual advances,



(2)

however revolting to heterosexuals, are not to be avenged with murder or bodily harm. A coroner's jury on Dec. 14 held the Marine responsible for the death and ordered him held for grand jury action on homicide charges.

#### CONGRESSIONAL IMMUNITY

From an apparently honest and reliable source it has been learned that several months ago a Congressman was caught in a parking lot with a fellow. Because a Congressman has immunity from arrest on misdemeanor charges, the matter was dropped.

Writing in the Washington Daily News on June 29, 1953, the columnist Peter Edson stated that there have been "several known homosexuals" in Congress; that one Congressman was caught in the act "many years ago"; and that another Senator was "notorious."

The British Medical Association reported a year ago that there are an estimated 500,000 homosexuals in Britain, "including some in Parliament and in the high councils of the Church of England." (See Idaho Daily Statesman, Boise, Ida., 12/17/55).

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"Love knoweth no laws."

-- John Lyly, Euphuus.

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TO OUR READERS:

A VERY MERRY & JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

SAC, ST. LOUIS

4/1/57

SAC, WFO (100-33796)

**THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)**

The captioned organization, which apparently has its headquarters in California, has a Washington chapter. The preamble to its constitution reads in part that members of the organization "hold it necessary that a highly ethical homosexual culture be integrated into society."

The Society has as its Washington address P. O. Box 8818, which is rented by Huggins

[redacted] His personnel file was sent to St. Louis.

You are requested to review Huggins personnel file for background information and any indication he is a homosexual. The Bureau has directed this matter be given expeditious attention. P.

2-St. Louis

1-WFO

TCR:bjw

(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/21/84 BY SP/CLK/SP

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized 951  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed 951

100-33796-3

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-403320)

4/2/57

SAC, WFO (100-33796)

**THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)**

ReBulet 3/4/57 instructing WFO to make inquiry to determine the individuals who are operating the Washington Chapter of the captioned organization.

The records of the U.S. Post Office, Washington, D.C., reflect that P.O. Box 8815 is located in the Southeast Station and is rented by [redacted]

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[redacted] His references were [redacted]

[redacted] now maintains two

boxes at the Southeast Station; [redacted] and Box 8815 for the organization which, according to the Post Office, records is the "Health Education and Sex Society."

On 3/11/57 [redacted] Office of Naval Intelligence, Pentagon, advised SA [redacted] that ONI is conducting an investigation of the subject organization in California and has furnished the Bureau one report on the Society. SCINTO further advised that ONI has established a mail cover on P.O. Box 8815. He made available the results of the cover for January and February, 1957. This reflected 23 pieces of correspondence addressed to [redacted] and 4 addressed to the Society. The following return addresses were noted for mail addressed to the Society:

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Date

2/13/57

Mattachine Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 194  
Murray Hill Station

2 - Bureau  
1 - WFO  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/84 BY SP4/ehj/ [signature]  
TCR:mrs (3)

100-33796-4

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED \_\_\_\_\_

WFO 100-33796

Date

Severn Park, Md.

2/6/57

Beaux Arts Academy  
Executive Director  
Box 88  
Pine Hill, N.J.

Suite 312  
693 Mission Street  
San Francisco, California

2/15/57

The majority of the mail addressed to [redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted] was of the opinion that [redacted] might possibly be identical with [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

The Credit Bureau, Inc., maintains a 1948 report which reflects [redacted]

[redacted]

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On 3/27/57 [redacted] Personnel Office, Post Office Department, advised that [redacted]

[redacted]

The arrest records of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department were negative for [redacted]

[redacted]

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April 12, 1957

**THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)**

On March 4, 1957, a letter was directed to the Washington Field Office (WFO) instructing that an inquiry be made in this matter to determine the identities of individuals operating the Washington chapter and if possible identify individual members of the chapter; that the list of individual members be forwarded under instant caption; that the indices of WFO be checked to determine whether an inquiry concerning these individuals had been conducted under the Security of Government Employees (SGE) Program and if so a communication be directed to the Bureau under each specific individual case caption; and that the inquiry be limited to contacts with established sources.

WFO letter April 2, 1957, advised that Post Office (P. O.) Box 8815 is rented by [redacted] that his references were [redacted]

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[redacted] that [redacted] uses P. O. Box 8815 for the organization, which, according to P. O. records, is the "Health Education and Sex Society"; and [redacted]

WFO letter also stated that the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) in conducting an investigation of captioned organization in California and has established a mail cover on P. O. Box 8815, the results of which for January and February 1957 were made available and reflected 23 pieces of correspondence addressed to [redacted] and 4 addressed to the society. None of the 4 were received from individuals. It was noted that some of the mail addressed to [redacted]

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100-403320

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/2/84 BY [signature]

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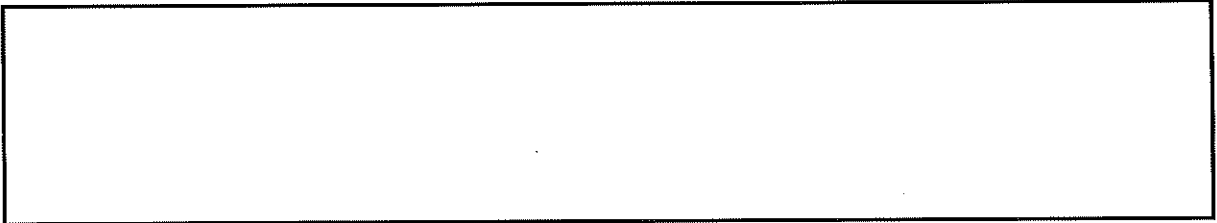
100-33796-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1957	
F. WASHINGTON	

[redacted] R ✓

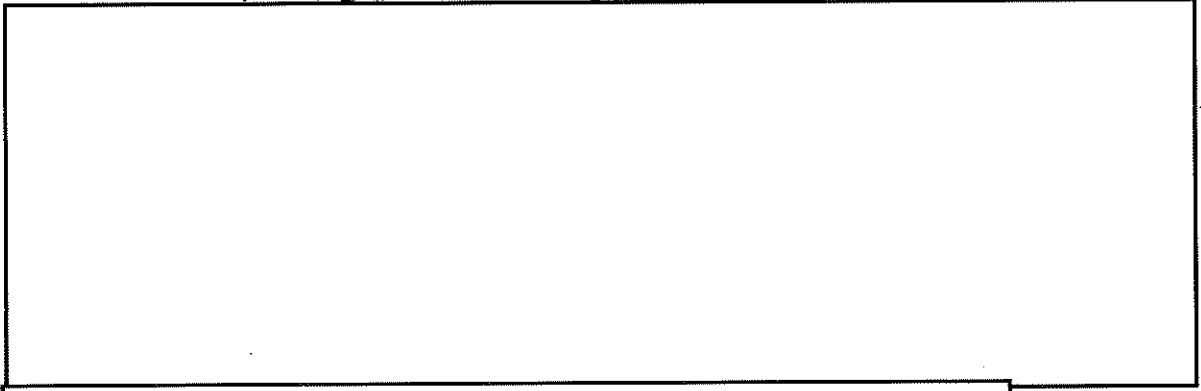
**The Mattachine Society, Inc.**

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WFO letter also advised that The Credit Bureau, Inc., maintains a 1948 report reflecting [redacted]

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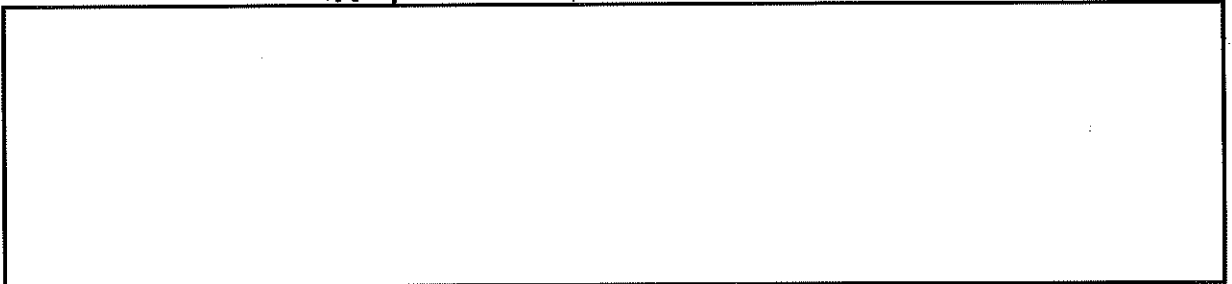


[So Burns was not an informant] A check of Bufiles reflects the only reference identifiable with Kenneth H. Burns, mentioned above, is that he chaired the convention of The Mattachine Society held May 15 and 16, 1954, at San Francisco, California, and that he is chairman of the board of directors of the society.

A review of Bufiles reflects the following data which could be identified with [redacted]

In November 1954 [redacted]

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5-1-57

THE MATFACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

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On 3-29-57 [redacted] Personnel Clerk, Service Record Card Section, advised that a search of the records of his office failed to disclose a service record card under the name [redacted]

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2-Bureau  
1-WFO  
TCR:gyf  
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/84 BY SP8/eh/f

100-33796-8

Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

WFO 100-33796

B. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

b6 The Civil Service Commission Investigative Files were  
b7C reviewed relative to [redacted] by SA [redacted] and the fol-  
lowing pertinent information was noted:

[redacted] Civil Service Commission has conducted no investigation  
of [redacted].

The files contain a letter, dated 7-28-55, from [redacted]

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(1) [redacted]

(2) [redacted]

b6  
b7C

(3) [redacted]

(4) [redacted]

b6  
b7C

The file reflected that Civil Service Commission had  
advised [redacted]

The file indicated [redacted]

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b7C

C. WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
MORALS DIVISION

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On 3-29-57, Inspector, [redacted] furnished the fol-  
lowing information to SA [redacted] most of which in-



WFO 100-33796

formation was obtained by [ ] in 1954. [ ] is not investigating the subject organization, but does receive the national publication of the organization from San Francisco.

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According to [ ] one issue of the publication reflected that [ ] of The Mattachine Society in Washington, D.C., and was trying to form a club here. All correspondence for the society was to be directed to Post Office Box 8815. The address of the main office of the Society was Box 1925, Main Post Office, Los Angeles, but was changed to 693 Mission St., San Francisco 5, California. The organization held a convention in San Francisco in 1956. [ ] has learned the society headquarters is attempting to form a women's organization named "Daughters of Belittis."

According to Inspector [ ] the society's publication is mailed as first class mail so the postal inspectors can do nothing about it. They did attempt to determine who the subscribers were, but found that a small number of copies were being mailed at each of the Post Office sub stations. [ ] advised that the following individuals are, or were, connected with the National Office Publication in San Francisco with phone number EX 7-0773.

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Editor  
Business Manager  
Art Director  
Production Manager

WFO indices negative for these individuals.

## II. RESULTS OF OGI MAIL COVER

In addition to the correspondence directed to Post Office Box 8815, as set forth in my letter of 4-2-57, the following individuals, firms, and agencies directed mail to [ ] Southeast Station during January and February, 1957:

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### CORRESPONDENT

### DATE

2-4-57

WFO 100-33796

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b7C

CORRESPONDENT

DATE

2-13-57

State of New Jersey  
Office of Counsel to  
the Governor

2-11-57

U.S. Department of Justice  
Southern District of New York

2-5-57

Guardian Federal Savings  
Association  
Dupont Circle Office Bldg.  
1369 Connecticut Ave., N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

2-1-57

Congressional Record  
Washington, D.C.

- - -

National Bank of Washington  
Washington, D.C.

1-23-57

Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C.

- - -

Civil Service Commission  
Washington, D.C.

1-20-57

Treasury Department  
Division of Disbursements  
Washington, D.C.

- - -

Suite 800  
131 State Street  
Boston, Mass.

- - -

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Ferris and Company, Inc.  
Washington, D.C.

- - -

Washington Permanent  
Building Association  
629 F. Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

1-10-57

WFO 100-33796

CORRESPONDENT

DATE

Perpetual Building Association  
11th and E. Streets, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

1-11-57

National Permanent Building  
Association  
Washington, D.C.

1-11-57

Interstate Building Association  
15th and New York Ave., N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

1-10-57

Prudential Building Association  
1338 G. Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

1-10-57

Council of State Governments  
1025 Connecticut Ave., N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

1-15-57

[REDACTED]

- - -

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]

2-25-57

[REDACTED]

1-16-57

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[REDACTED]

1-14-57

Chief Executive Assistant  
U.S. Attorneys Office  
(City not shown)

No return address  
(Postmarked D.C.)

2-8-57

May 28, 1957

TO: SAC, WFO



For information



For appropriate action

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/21/84 BY SP4 [signature]

100-33296-100

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>6/12/90</u>	FILED <u>7/2/57</u>
MAY 29 1957	
FBI - WASHINGTON	

b6  
b7C



# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (100-403320)

DATE: 5/22/57

FROM : SAC, WFO (100-33796)

Attention:

☒ Domestic Intelligence Division

☐ Investigative Division

SUBJECT: THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Name: The Mattachine Society, Inc.

Address: Post Office Box 8815  
Washington, D. C.

Type of Mail: Air Mail.

Type of Cover: Return addresses.

Period Covered: 30 days

Purpose of Cover: To attempt to identify members of the  
captioned organization.

Justification: (Comment on necessity, desirability, productivity, possibility of embarrassment to Bureau.  
If necessary continue on extra page.)

WFO feels that instant type of coverage is both necessary and desirable because of the lack of other established sources which could assist in identifying the organization's members. Inasmuch as the above mentioned Post Office Box is the only known means by which the society members communicate with the local officer, B. D. HUGGINS, it is felt this type of coverage should be productive.

There is no reason to believe this investigative technique would be embarrassing to the Bureau.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/7/84 BY SP4/ehd

Postmaster to whom Form FD-115 will be directed if authorized:

ROY M. NORTH  
Postmaster  
Washington, D. C.

2 - Bureau  
RCR:laa  
(2)

100-33796-10

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 29 1957	
FBI - WASHINGTON	

b6 b7C

Washington Field Office, Room 506  
Old Post Office Building

100-33796

June 4, 1957

Roy M. North  
Postmaster  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In connection with an investigation being conducted by this Bureau, it is requested that you furnish this office with the following information on all mail, including special delivery and registered mail, received by the individual listed below for a period of thirty days:

Re: **Mattachine Society, Inc.**  
**Box 8815**  
**Southeast Station**  
**Washington, D. C.**

1. The name of addressee if different from above.
2. Name and return address of sender.
3. All postmark data including date, time, and place mailed from.
4. All information on return cards.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP4/ab/ll  
Very truly yours,  
**L. LAUGHLIN**  
Special Agent in Charge

1 - Postmaster  
1 - WFO 100-33796  
TCR:LEB  
120-

*Card included and  
filed 7-1-57 HCN*

*100-33796-11*

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized HE-11  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed HE-11

b6  
b7C

*Given to J. L. 6/5/57 mmh*

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-403320)

June 27, 1957

SAC, WFO (100-33796)

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
INTERNAL SECURITY

Re: May 1, 1957.

On May 29, 1957, [redacted] Office of Naval Intelligence, Pentagon, advised SA [redacted] that the ONI mail cover on subject organization was discontinued in February, 1957, and his office has no additional information relative to the society.

An inquiry at the Office of Postal Inspectors on June 19, 1957, revealed no additional information concerning subject organization.

WFO has placed a thirty day mail cover on PO Box 8815, Southeast Station, Washington, D. C., which is rented in the name of the Mattachine Society. The following are the results of the mail cover to date:

<u>Correspondent</u>	<u>Addressee</u>	<u>Date</u>
Not shown	PO Box 8815 Washington, D. C.	6/11/57
Suite 312 693 Mission Street San Francisco 5, California	The Mattachine Society, Inc. Washington, D.C. Area Council C/o [redacted] P.O. Box 8815 S.E. Station Washington, D. C.	6/19/57
PO Box 8815 Southeast Station Washington 3, D.C.	[redacted]	6/4/57

b6  
b7C

The last item is a returned piece of correspondence which was stamped "Unclaimed".

- 2 - Bureau (100-403320)  
2 - Baltimore (RM)  
1 - WFO 100-33796

TCR:LEB  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/84 BY SP4/ehj

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

100-33796-12

7/8/57  
R/S to [redacted]  
[redacted]

WFO 100-33796

Baltimore is requested to, through established sources, attempt to determine the employment of [redacted] For the information of Baltimore, the subject organization is apparently a society of homosexuals. The Bureau desires to know if any members are employed by the U. S. Government, as their activities in this regard may have some bearing on the Security of Government Employees Program. If [redacted] is found to be a Government employee, a check of your indices should be made to determine whether he has been investigated under the SGE Program.

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WFO is continuing attempts to determine the employment of [redacted] This is necessarily being done by Fisur. P.

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b7C



DIRECTOR, FBI (100-403320)

7/16/57

SAC, WFO (100-33796)

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
INTERNATION SECURITY

Remylet 6/27/57.

The following are the remaining results of the  
mail cover on Post Office Box 8815, Southeast Station,  
Washington, D. C.

CORRESPONDENT

ADDRESSEE

DATE

PO Box 8815  
S. E. Station  
Washington 3, D.C.

5/27/57

PO Box 8815  
S. E. Station  
Washington 3, D. C.

Long Beach Area  
Council  
The Mattachine Society,  
Inc.  
PO Box 1232  
Long Beach 2, Calif.  
(Box closed-No Order)

6/20/57

693 Mission St.  
Room 308  
San Francisco 5,  
Calif.

The Mattachine Society  
PO Box 8815  
S. E. Station  
Washington, D. C.

6/22/57

No Return Address

Mattachine Society, Inc.  
PO Box 8815  
Washington 3, D. C.

N. Y., N. Y.  
6/26/57

PO Box 194  
Murray Hill Station  
New York 16, N. Y.

Mattachine Society  
PO Box 8815  
S. E. Station  
Washington 3, D. C.

6/27/57

2-Bureau  
2-Baltimore  
1-WFO

TCR:aw  
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/84 BY [signature]

100 33796 -13

WFO 100-33796

Village Theatre	Mattachine Society 6/28/57
Center	Washington Chapter
Books-Prints	PO Box 8815
116 Christopher St.	Washington, 3, D.C.
New York 14, N.Y.	

The first two items are returned pieces of correspondence stamped "Unclaimed". It is noted a piece of correspondence, addressed to [redacted] on 5/4/57, was returned. The New York Post Office Box 194 and San Francisco address are Society Offices.

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Inasmuch as the mail cover and contact with established sources has failed to develop any information of pertinence to the Security of Government Employees Program, WFO will take no further action in this matter. WFO will advise the Bureau of any further information received concerning the organization or its members.

A lead is outstanding for Baltimore to determine, if possible, if [redacted] is Government Employee. BA is requested to expedite this lead.

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b7C

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, WFO

DATE: 6/19/58

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b7C

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MATTACHINE SOCIETY,  
INFORMATION CONCERNINGb6  
b7C

Canon [REDACTED] Diocesan Office, Protestant Episcopal Churches, 1702 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, telephonically contacted WFO this date and reported that the MATTACHINE SOCIETY is currently holding its meetings in the hall of St. James Episcopal Church at 222 8th St., NE. He indicated they have previously held 2 meetings there and are planning another. adding the hall is furnished them free by Father [REDACTED] of St. James. Canon [REDACTED] said there are about 40 people in this group. He went on to say he understands this group is the equivalent of Alcoholics Anonymous in that they endeavor to cure, aid and assist homosexuals and asked if the FBI could furnish him any information regarding the organization. He was informed that FBI files are confidential and can be made available only to authorized agencies.

It is recommended that if WFO has no further interest in this organization that consideration be given to furnishing this data to MPD.

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b7CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/1/83 BY [REDACTED]

100-33796-17

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 19 1958	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

b6  
b7C

2.

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-403320)

7/24/58

SAC, WFO (100-33796)

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
INTERNAL SECURITY

Re mylet dated 10/1/57, which stated WFO would advise the Bureau of any additional information received concerning the captioned organization or its members.

On 6/19/58, Canon [redacted] Diocesan Office, Protestant Episcopal Church, 1702 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., telephonically advised WFO that the captioned society is holding meetings in the hall of St. James Episcopal Church, 222 8th Street, N.E. He added that the hall is furnished free to the society by Father [redacted] of St. James.

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On 6/18/58, a meeting of the society was held at St. James Parrish Hall which was attended by a Washington Metropolitan Police Officer. The information concerning this meeting and the police officer's report was furnished to WFO by Deputy Chief of Police, ROY E. BLICK. This was furnished to the Bureau by a letterhead memo and airtel dated 6/30/58, in the case entitled [redacted]

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Bureau authority is requested to contact Canon [redacted] and Father [redacted] mentioned above, to determine if they would be able to furnish any information indicating that any of the members of the society are Government employees. P.

APR 1958  
Bureau  
1 - WFO  
TCR:nme  
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/2/84 BY SP4 [signature]

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

100-33796-18

SAC, Washington Field Office (100-33796)

August 1, 1958

Director, FBI (100-403320)

**THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INCORPORATED  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)**

Bulet 7-24-58 requesting authority to contact Canon [ ] and Father [ ] Goodrich to determine if they would be able to furnish any information indicating that any of the members of the captioned society are Government employees.

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In view of the fact that Canon [ ] has furnished information to your office in the past concerning this matter, authority is granted to contact him in accordance with your request.

Bufiles contain no references to Father [ ] Unless the files of your office reflect information indicating a contact with Father [ ] would be inadvisable, you are authorized to contact him in accordance with your request.

b6  
b7C

In the event information is developed during these interviews indicating that any of the members of the society are Government employees, such information should be handled in accordance with instructions set forth in Bulet to your office dated 3-4-57 in captioned matter. Requested interviews should be conducted immediately and the results furnished the Bureau promptly.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/2/84 BY SP [ ]

100 - 33796-19

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 4 1958	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

05

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-403320)

8/14/58

SAC, WFO (100-33796)

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INCORPORATED  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Remylet dated 7/24/58 requesting authority  
to contact Canon [redacted] and Father [redacted]  
and Bulet dated 8/1/58, authorizing the interviews of  
these two individuals.

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On 8/12/58, Canon [redacted] of the Protestant  
Episcopal Churches, 1702 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., was  
contacted by SA [redacted]. Canon [redacted] advised  
that the church had decided to have nothing further to do  
with this society unless the society could prove to the  
church that it was using accredited analysts in an effort  
to correct the affliction of its members. Since the church  
was not satisfied that the society was utilizing such  
analysts and it was the opinion of Canon [redacted] that the  
society was merely an organization for "boys to meet boys,"  
the Bishop of the church had written a letter advising the  
society that the church could be of no further assistance  
to it. It was the opinion of Canon [redacted] that the society  
had approached the Episcopal Church because it may have  
learned that the church gives assistance and co-operates  
with alcoholic anonymous societies.

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[redacted] stated that he could be of no assistance  
at this time in identifying any of the membership of the  
society. His advice was sought as to whether Father [redacted]  
should be contacted for assistance in this regard. He stated  
he was quite certain that Father [redacted] did not know the  
names of the members as he had been approached by only one  
individual. He also advised that Father [redacted]  
[redacted] of the Order of High Episcopal Churches, which is

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/2/84 BY 5046m/lf  
TCR:clp (3)

0-Returned to  
Bureau 8-20-58  
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100-33796-20

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized \_\_\_\_\_  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_

WFO 100-33796

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b7C

closely parallel to the Catholic Church in so far as such matters as confessions are concerned. It was Canon [redacted] opinion that Father [redacted] would probably refuse to furnish the names of any members of the society if he knew them as he would most likely consider this privileged information. In light of Canon [redacted] latter remarks, WFO feels it would be inadvisable to contact Father [redacted] as the interview would probably be unproductive and could possibly lead to embarrassment to the Bureau.

WFO feels that the best coverage of this organization is through Deputy Chief of Police ROY BLICK, who follows the activities of the organization to some extent and furnishes pertinent information to WFO. This matter is being placed in a closed status in WFO; however, all pertinent information received regarding the society will be immediately furnished to the Bureau.



DIRECTOR, FBI (63-4296)

5/19/59

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-45888)

MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC.  
IS - C  
(OO: LA)

Re Houston airtel to the Director dated 11/19/58,  
captioned "CRIMDEL - CRS" re Mattachine Society, Inc.

For the information of the Boston and Detroit  
Offices, who did not receive copies of referenced airtel,  
OSI Agent [redacted] Corpus Christi, Texas, furnished the  
following information to SA [redacted] of the Houston  
Office on 11/14/58:

The captioned society was founded and incorporated  
in California on 6/7/52 as a secret society, with headquarters  
in Los Angeles. The society is an organization composed mainly  
of sex deviates and homosexuals. On 5/11/53 the secrecy was  
dropped and the organization came out into the open. Since  
then, the organization has published a bimonthly magazine  
entitled "Mattachine Review," which is distributed from San  
Francisco, California. According to [redacted] chapters have been  
formed in Chicago, New York, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh.

[redacted] further informed that about 60% of the officers  
of the chapters are known homosexuals and individuals who have  
allegedly participated in Communist Party "front groups."

2 - Bureau (REGISTERED)  
1 - Boston (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Chicago (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Cleveland (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Dallas (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Denver (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Detroit (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - El Paso (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Houston (94-197) (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - New York (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Phoenix (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Pittsburgh (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - San Antonio (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - San Francisco (100-37394) (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Washington Field (Info.) (REGISTERED)  
1 - Los Angeles  
RAF:VMD  
(17)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/84 BY [signature]

100-33296-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1959	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

info

LA 100-45886

The Mattachine "Newsletter" for May, 1959, issued by the Los Angeles Area Council, listed the following Mattachine offices:

Boston Area Council  
P.O. Box 1499, Boston 4, Massachusetts

Detroit Area Council  
P.O. Box 1434, Detroit 31, Michigan

Los Angeles Area Council  
P.O. Box 1925, Los Angeles 53, California

New York Area Council  
1135 Broadway, Suite 409, New York 10, N.Y.

Phoenix Area Council

b6  
b7C

San Francisco Area Council  
693 Mission Street  
San Francisco 5, California

The "Newsletter" announced that the Sixth Annual Convention of the Mattachine Society is to be held at Denver, Colorado, September 4 - 7, and that the Albany Hotel in downtown Denver has been selected as convention headquarters.

The above is furnished the Bureau and other offices for information.